

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-13 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 4-7 have been canceled through this Reply. Claims 1-3 and 8 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 9 has been amended through this Reply. Claim 9 is independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant appreciates that claims 9-13 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 4 and 9 stand objected for minor informalities. Claim 4 has been canceled and claim 9 has been amended through this Reply in order to address this issue. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTION – Moriyama

Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Moriyama et al. (US 2003/0076773 A1) (“Moriyama”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 4 and 7 have been canceled through this Reply. Therefore, the rejections against claims 4 and 7 are moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

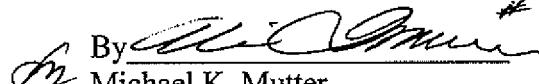
Application No. 10/526,401
Amendment dated February 19, 2008
After Final Office Action of December 10, 2007

Docket No.: 1190-0601PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 19, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael K. Mutter
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant